

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01484 221942Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /074 W

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O R 221905Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 444

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1484

BOGOTA AND SAN JOSE FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, BH, GT

SUBJECT: BELIZE

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 20, FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM OF BELIZE. MOLINA STRESSED THAT AFTER ITS DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE GUATEMALA IS NO THREAT TO BELIZE OR THE UK. GUATEMALA NEEDS EVERY BIT OF ITS RESOURCES AND STRENGTH FOR THE LONG AND PAINFUL TASK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT THE SHATTERING DISASTER THAT HAD OCCURRED IN GUATEMALA WOULD HARDEN THE POSITION OF BELIZE MINISTER PRICE AND ENCOURAGE THE UK TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A UNILATERAL GRANT OF INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE SHOULD DIFFICULTIES BE ENCOUNTERED IN THE UK-GUATEMALAN NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THEY RESUME. MOLINA SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT SUCH A MOVE BY THE UK WOULD CAUSE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 01484 221942Z

TO BE OVERTHROWN. THE GUATEMALAN ARMY WOULD NEVER ACCEPT

A NATIONAL HUMILIATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MOLINA SAID THE GOG PLANS TO APPROACH THE UK IN EARLY MARCH TO AGREE ON A TIME FOR THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE DISASTER. THE GOG WILL SUGGEST TALKS START IN APRIL, AFTER EASTER. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GUATEMALA WILL EARNESTLY SEEK A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATION BUT FEARS A HARDENED OR PEREMPTORY BELIZE OR UK ATTITUDE.
MELOY

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